

House
REPUBLICAN
Conference

FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 3164—Hydrographic Services Improvement Act
H.J.Res. 111—Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment



H.R. 3164—Hydrographic Services Improvement Act

Floor Situation: The House is expected to consider H.R. 3164 as its first order of business today. Mr. Saxton is expected to ask unanimous consent to consider the bill under an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The unanimous consent agreement makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The bill will be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, provided that it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the agreement provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 3164 authorizes \$581 million for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) hydrographic service functions (which includes all of the nautical mapping and charting, hydrographic, geodetic, and tide and current measurement functions, products, and services of NOAA) for the FYs 1999-2003.

The bill authorizes NOAA to develop a quality assurance program, under which the NOAA administrator may certify hydrographic products (e.g., books, maps, CD-ROMs, or other software) that satisfy federal standards. The bill allows NOAA to require an official emblem to be affixed to hydrographic products to distinguish these certified products. The bill authorizes NOAA to charge a fee for this service with the proceeds deposited into a hydrographic services account established within the U.S. Treasury. Funds in the account may be spent by NOAA and will be subject to appropriation.

Finally, the bill outlines the responsibilities and authorities of the NOAA administrator and requires him to report to Congress on several issues. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enactment will result in additional discretionary spending of \$503 million over the FY 1999-2003 period. The Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments to H.R. 3164.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #9, April 17, 1998.



H.J. Res. 111—Tax Limitation Amendment

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.J. Res. 111 today after it completes consideration of H.R. 3164. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a modified closed rule providing for three hours of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee. The committee also adopted an amendment to the base text offered during markup by Mr. McCollum. The amendment makes explicit that the resolution is not intended to affect legislation calling for tax cuts which spur economic growth, and thereby generate increased federal revenue. The rule further provides for one hour of debate on an amendment, if offered, by Mr. Gephardt or his designee. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.J. Res. 111 proposes an amendment to the Constitution to require a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate for passage of any legislation which would result in a tax increase (not including tariffs, user fees, or voluntary payments). The bill allows Congress to waive the supermajority requirement to pass a tax increase (1) during a period of declared war between the U.S. and another country, or (2) when Congress and the president enact a resolution stating that the U.S. is engaged in a military conflict which threatens national security. Tax legislation enacted under this waiver can be in force for no longer than two years after its enactment. H.J. Res. 111 is identical to the measure acted on by the House last Congress, H.J. Res. 62. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. H.J. Res. 111 was introduced by Mr. Barton. The Judiciary Committee did not consider H.J. Res. 111. However, it reported H.J. Res. 62 by a vote of 18-10 on April 8, 1997.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of this measure. A Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: Although the rule makes in order a possible amendment by Mr. Gephardt or his designee, the *Legislative Digest* was unaware at press time of any such amendment or whether the minority leader intends to offer one.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #9, April 17, 1998.



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House REPUBLICAN Conference Amendment Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

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Chairman
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill #: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.

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